

Docket No. 04-233

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to require that their stations air an anti-Kerry documentary just days before this crucial presidential election is an egregious example of the dangers of media consolidation. Big Media is suffocating journalism and democracy itself.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is legally obliged to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we are getting what these companies want us to see and hear. Namely, what they think will benefit them most. Ultimately, we receive less of what we need for our democracy -unbiased news. Rather than being exposed to something produced at "News Central," it's far more important to see news about our local community and news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions illustrate why we need to strengthen rules regarding media ownership. The license renewal process should be more exacting than what is now practised.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.